

ABSTRACT

PURIFIED HEPATITIS C VIRUS ENVELOPE PROTEINS FOR DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC USE

5 The present invention relates to a method for purifying recombinant HCV single or specific oligomeric
envelope proteins selected from the group consisting of E1 and/or E2 and/or E1/E2, characterized in that upon
lysing the transformed host cells to isolate the recombinantly expressed protein a disulphide bond cleavage or
reduction step is carried out with a disulphide bond cleavage agent. The present invention also relates to a
composition isolated by such a method. The present invention also relates to the diagnostic and therapeutic
10 application of these compositions. Furthermore, the invention relates to the use of HCV E1 protein and
peptides for prognosing and monitoring the clinical effectiveness and/or clinical outcome of HCV treatment.